THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Srinagar airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a civil enclave. The present terminal building can accommodate 300 passengers at a time. AAI has plans to expand and modify existing terminal building to handle 600 passengers at a time with all modern passenger amenities. There is also proposal to expand the present apron for parking of wide bodied aircraft. At present the proposal is at a preliminary stage.

Collection of Airport Tax

3819. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether airport tax amounting to Rs. 500/- is collected from each passenger every time he passes through the IGI Airport;

(b) if so, what is the estimated daily collection on this account;

(c) how much of the amount so collected is spent annually on the improvement of the IGI airport and on providing facilities to the passengers; and

(d) what improvement has been made so far in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Rs. 500/- as Foreign Travel Tax is collected from each embarking international passenger at all airports.

(b) Average daily collection during 1999-2000 was Rs. 20.00 lakhs at IGIA, Delhi.

(c) and (d) The amount so collected is credited to the consolidated fund of India with 10% share being paid to the Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has spent an amount of Rs. 74.08 crores during 1999-2000 towards improvement and maintenance of the passenger facilities at the Indira Gandhi International Airport as a whole.

Impact of New Aviation Policy on Indian Airlines

3820. MISS. MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new civil aviation policy will throw the Indian Airlines again in disarray;

(b) the average age of the aircrafts specially those plying on the North-Eastern Sector;

(c) whether Government have any plan to phase-out the aged and almost vintage aircrafts; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to replace the existing fleet with the new aircraft ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) There is no change in the domestic air transport policy. Indian Airlines continues to be the market leader. However, the Civil Aviation Policy under formulation seeks to maintain a competitive civil aviation environment ensuring safety and security. The draft policy has been widely circulated for views/ comments before finalisation.

(b) No specific aircraft as such are dedicated to operate in the North Eastern sector. The average age of aircraft of the domestic airlines are as follows :—

Indian Airlines : 12.8 years

Jet Airways : 3.8 years

Sahara Airlines : 11.8 years

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has plans to phase out/replace the aged aircraft in its fleet.

Air Traffic Network in Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh

†3821. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh in terms of air traffic and domestic revenue, separately ;

(b) whether there is any fixed norm for implementing the uniform policy for air traffic and flights;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to introduce air traffic from such airports of these States which are being closed;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.